

## **Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)**

### **Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 161 Summary Report**

**Date:** Wednesday 17 February 2021

**Time:** Australian Eastern Standard Time at 11:00AM (01:00 UTC)

**Host:** SPREP

**Chair:** SPREP

**Apologies:** Palau

**Main purpose for the OCOF:**

- To provide a regular forum for the 12 participating PIC NMSs to discuss the current ENSO status, recent one and three-month rainfall, drought (if present), their seasonal climate outlooks and stakeholders engagement with other countries and the COMP (Bureau of Meteorology and SPREP) project team.

In addition, it serves as an online training forum for recent SCOPIC development and gives the project team and the NMSs an opportunity to discuss other project related matters.

**Agenda:**

1. Brief introduction of PIC participants, SPREP and Bureau of Meteorology teams.
2. Report on current ENSO status.
3. Each NMS report on their past one and three months' rainfall in relation to the current ENSO situation (include ranking and verification), their three-month outlooks and their stakeholders engagement. Wherever appropriate NMS to report on their drought status.
4. Round-table discussion: addressing general concerns/queries on outlooks and SCOPIC
5. Feedback on COSPPac products and services.
6. Country statements with regards to drought or drought-like conditions, drought module issues/concerns.
7. The next OCOF will be held on 17 March 2021 and is to be chaired by **Tonga**.

**Participants:**

The Forum was attended by 14 climate officers (8 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

**Cook Islands:** Bates Manea

**Fiji:** Jasneel Chandra and Shweta Shiwangni

**Kiribati:** Miriam Kataunati

**Niue:** Raquel Tanaki and Lenita Togiomana

**Papua New Guinea:** Kisolet Posanau and Kila Kila

**Palau:**

**Republic of Marshall Islands:**

**Samoa:** Emannuel Etimani

**Solomon Islands:** Max Sitai and Lloyd Tahani

**Tonga:** Mele and Gary

**Tuvalu:**

**Vanuatu:** Glenda Pakoa

**Australia:** Grant Beard

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**SPREP:** Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

OCOF tables were received from 11 participating countries before the meeting.

### Observations and Verification of November 2020 to January 2021 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending January 2021 were discussed for each PIC. This month, several countries experienced extreme rainfall as shown in the following table:

Station	Period		Rainfall Amount (mm)	Rainfall Rank	Years of record
Rarotonga, Cook Islands	January		58.2	5	123
Penang Mill, Fiji	January		1008.0	110	112
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	January		676.3	116	121
Laucala Bay, Fiji	January		578.4	75	80
Lekeba, Fiji	January		487.7	68	71
Rotuma, Fiji	January		671.9	107	109
Udu Point, Fiji	January		582.4	65	72
Penang Mill, Fiji	Nov-Jan		1733.2	104	106
Laucala Bay, Fiji	Nov-Jan		1445.5	77	79
Nausori Airport, Fiji	Nov-Jan		1327.1	63	65
Rotuma, Fiji	Nov-Jan		1521.5	103	105
Kirimati, Kiribati	January		0.6	4	95
Beru, Kiribati	Nov-Jan		15.3	3	62
Kirimati, Kiribati	Nov-Jan		6.2	6	79
Madang, PNG	January		106.2	5	73
Momote, PNG	January		91.2	5	65
Kavieng, PNG	January		116.0	7	90
Madang, PNG	Nov-Jan		707.2	5	72
Momote, PNG	Nov-Jan		515.8	4	64
Kavieng, PNG	Nov-Jan		460.4	4	88
Apia, Samoa	Nov-Jan		1616.0	121	130
Afiamalu, Samoa	Nov-Jan		2770.0	64	66
Nafanua, Samoa	Nov-Jan		1974.9	40	44
Faleolo, Samoa	Nov-Jan		1191.6	58	59
Munda, Solomon Islands	Nov-Jan		5898.5	5	59
Fua'amotu, Tonga	January		598.3	42	42
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	January		559.2	76	77
Vava'u, Tonga	January		1255.8	70	74
Nanumea, Tuvalu	January		2.6	1	81

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Funafuti, Tuvalu	January		60.8	1	89
Nanumea, Tuvalu	Nov-Jan		127.6	1	79
Funafuti, Tuvalu	Nov-Jan		694.1	2	88
Lamap, Vanuatu	January		617.5	58	61
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	January		574.7	48	50
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	January		609.2	50	50
Aneityum, Vanuatu	January		647.0	65	70
Pekoa, Vanuatu	Nov-Jan		1070.1	47	50
Lamap, Vanuatu	Nov-Jan		953.0	57	60
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	Nov-Jan		1182.4	47	48
Port Vila, Vanuatu	Nov-Jan		1014.5	64	68
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	Nov-Jan		812.4	49	49
Aneityum, Vanuatu	Nov-Jan		1181.2	66	69

[Note: The above data may not have undergone quality control]

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of November 2020 to January 2021 period showed 40 consistent, 13 near-consistent and 3 inconsistent outlooks (56 stations across 11 countries).

A summary of results (C-Consistent, NC-Near Consistent, In-Inconsistent, N/A-not available) for each country is as follows:

**Cook Islands** (1C, 1In); **Fiji** (9C,2NC); **Kiribati** (4C); **RMI** (); **Niue** (1C); **Palau** (1NC); **PNG** (5C, 4NC); **Samoa** (3C, 1NC); **Solomon Islands** (2C, 3NC, 2In); **Tonga** (5C, 1NC);

**Tuvalu** (4C) and **Vanuatu** (6C, 1NC).

**Overall: 40C, 13NC, 3In.**

### March to May 2021 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 19% of the 59 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 10% in tercile 2, 36% in tercile 3, 12% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 24% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

### Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 162 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 with Tonga as the chair.
- New changes to the SCOPIC software including the NINO.desc file
- La Niña impacts in different countries

**Observed Rainfall and Validation**

Country	January 2021	October 2020 to January 2021	Verification* for October 2020 to January 2021 outlooks
<b>Cook Islands</b>	Below normal	Below normal	Consistent and Inconsistent
<b>Fiji</b>	Above normal	Mostly above normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
<b>Kiribati</b>	Below normal	Below normal	Consistent
<b>RMI</b>	Above normal	Above normal	Near-Consistent
<b>Niue</b>	Above normal	Above normal	Consistent
<b>Palau</b>	Normal	Normal	Near-Consistent
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
<b>Samoa</b>	Mostly above normal	Above normal	Mostly Consistent
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
<b>Tonga</b>	Near normal to above normal	Mostly above normal	Mostly Consistent
<b>Tuvalu</b>	Mostly below normal	Mostly below normal	Consistent
<b>Vanuatu</b>	Mostly above normal	Normal and above normal	Mostly Consistent

**Country Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective countries engage with their stakeholders**

Country	Date January 2021	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin	January	Ministry of Transport	30	20	10
Cook Islands-EAR Watch	January	Cook Islands Government			
Fiji-Climate Summary	08 January	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	07 January	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26

\* Forecast is consistent when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) categories coincide (are in the same tercile).

Forecast is near-consistent when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) differ by only one category (i.e. terciles 1 and 2 or terciles 2 and 3).

Forecast is inconsistent when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) differ by two categories (i.e. terciles 1 and 3).

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Fiji Climate Outlook	29 January	General public	124	93	31
Fiji-Climate Outlook for Monasavu	12 January	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	20 January	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji-ENSO Update	25 January	General Public	142	116	26
Fiji -Sugarcane Climate Outlook	25 January	Sugar Industry stakeholders	77	60	17
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-31 January	A range of stakeholders	51	49	2
Kiribati Climate bulletin	29 January	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati -EAR Watch	29 January	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati –Media release	29 January	Media Colleagues- Government and Non Government entities. And Internal staffs.	43	28	15
Kiribati Ocean Bulletin	29 January	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Marshall Island					
Niue-Climate Bulletin	14 January	General public	60	20	40
		Government Officials	20	10	10
		Village council / Private sector	15	15	10
Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	28 January	Stakeholders	25	10	15
		Government Officials/all staff	15	7	8
		Village Council / weather group	15	5	10
		Facebook	20	10	10
Palau – Weather and Climate briefing	19 January	Governor and legislators	77	38	39
	26 January	Governor and legislators and the community	77	19	58
Papua New Guinea – EAR Watch	15 January	Govt: National Disaster Centre, Dept. of Transport, National Agriculture Research Institute, Dept. of Agriculture and Livestock, Provincial Disaster Coordinators, Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Climate Change Development Authority, Dept. of Mineral Policy and Geohazard Management, PNG DFAT, Centre of Environmental Protection Authority, National Capital District Commission, Dept. of Education. UN	140	91	49

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		Agencies: UNDP, FAO, IOM, Oxfam. NGOs: Childfund, WVI, PNGRC. Private: Pacific Hydro Services, PNG Power, Ok Tedi Mining Ltd, Media. Aus DFAT			
Samoa		<i>No Engagement</i>			
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	January	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goldridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD	58	46	12
Solomon Islands – EAR Watch	January	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goldridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD	53	39	14
Solomon Islands - Ocean Bulletin	January	Climate Change, NDMO, Environment, Tourism, Trade Co., Fisheries, Nature Conservancy, South Pacific Community	14	9	5
Solomon Islands - NCOF	January	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goldridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD, Forestry, Ministry of Health, Solomon Water, MECDM, Live and Learn, Tourism, Maritime Service, People with Disability, MID, Ministry of Fisheries, Sol Tuna Ltd, UN Women, Council of Women, Community Representative	58	46	12
Tonga – Climate bulletin	16 January	General public	132	66	34
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	January	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	11	4
Tuvalu – EAR Watch	January	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Monthly Climate briefing	January	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Ocean Bulletin	January	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Vanuatu	January	<i>No Engagement</i>			
<b>Total</b>			<b>1826</b>	<b>1,262</b>	<b>732</b>

[Note: The stakeholder data above may not total up due to lack of data from NMS or no participation]